

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 AGRE-00 TRSE-00 IGA-02
AID-05 /083 W

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R 141405Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9466
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1298

NAIROBI FOR RDSO

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: EAID, PDIP, CN, US
SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE I FOOD FOR COMOROS

REFS: (A) ANTANANARIVO 0849 (NOTAL), (B) ANTANANARIVO 1137 (NOTAL),
(C) BARRETT/CASTRODALE TELECON, JULY 13, 1977

SUMMARY. I REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY
OF PL 480 TITLE I SALES WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMORO
ISLAND (GDI) ON THE OCCASION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
RELATIONS WITH THE COMOROS. END SUMMARY.

1. WE KEEP HEARING OF FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AND IMMINENT
FOOD SHORTAGES IN THE COMORO ISLANDS, MOSTLY FROM UNDP.
FOREIGN SUPPLIERS' INSISTANCE ON CASH IN ADVANCE FOR SALES
TO THE COMOROS, THE INFLUX OF 16,000 REFUGEES FROM MAJUNGA,
AND NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF THE VOLCANIC ERUPTION HAVE COMBINED
TO DEplete ALREADY-SCARCE FOOD SUPPLIES AND TO MAKE IT
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DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE FOR IMPORTS OF FOOD.

2. UNDP ANTANANARIVO SUGGESTS THAT PETER LANDELL-MILLS
IF IBRD IN WASHINGTON, WHO LAST VISITED COMOROS IN JUNE,
MAY HAVE MORE DETAILS ON CURRENT FOOD AND FINANCIAL
SITUATIONS IN COMOROS. UNFORTUNATELY, LOCAL WORLD FOOD
PROGRAM REP IS ON LEAVE AND ALL UNDP STAFF MEMBERS FAMILIAR

WITH COMOROS ARE EITHER ILL OR ALSO ON LEAVE. THEREFORE,
AT THIS TIME WE CANNOT ESTIMATE AMOUNTS, KINDS, OR TIMING
OF COMOROS' FOOD REQUIREMENT.

3. I PROPOSE THAT WHEN RELATIONS ARE ESTABLISHED WITH THE
COMOROS (REF A), I MAKE KNOWN TO THE GCI THAT THEUS MAY
BE ABLE TO ASSIST WITH A PL 480 TITLE I PROGRAM. I WOULD
MAKE IT CLEAR THAT, INITIALLY, I COULD PROMISE NO MORE THAN
TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS FOR A POSSIBLE PL 480 AGREEMENT.

4. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, CURRENT FINANCING AGREEMENTS FOR
TITLE I ARE: (A) DOLLAR CREDIT AGREEMENTS, WITH A MAXIMUM
CREDIT PERIOD OF TWENTY YEARS, A MAXIMUM GRACE PERIOD OF
TWO YEARS, AND MINIMUM INTEREST RATES OF TWO PERCENT DURING
THE GRACE PERIOD AND THREE PERCENT THEREAFTER; AND (B)
CONVERTIBLE LOCAL CURRENCY CREDIT AGREEMENTS, WITH MAXIMUM
CREDIT PERIOD OF FORTY YEARS, MAXIMUM GRACE PERIOD OF TEN
YEARS, AND SAME MINIMUM INTEREST RATES AS FOR DOLLAR
CREDIT AGREEMENTS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER I
MAY PROCEED AS PROPOSED PARA 3 ABOVE, AND WHETHER I MAY
CONVEY THE GENERAL CREDIT TERMS OUTLINED IN PARA 4 ABOVE
TO THE GCI. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, I WOULD APPRECIATE
INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT STEPS TO BE TAKEN IF GCI SHOWS
INTEREST IN A PL 480 TITLE I AGREEMENT. BARRETT
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